CAP CONTEXT INDICATORS
2014-2020

31. LAND COVER

2017 update
Land cover is the actual distribution of forests, water, desert, grassland and other physical features of the land, including those created by human activities, in particular artificial and agricultural areas.

Agriculture plays a major role in Europe: by aggregating the Corine Land Cover 2012\(^1\) classes, it can be shown that agricultural land accounts for almost half of the European territory and has a notably higher share in the EU-N13 (54.7\%) than in the EU-15 (36.1\%).

The share of the different land cover categories varies across Europe and is correlated with the physical characteristics of the territory such as mountains and remoteness of the area. Generally the countries with a lower percentage of agricultural area present higher percentages of forests. Taken together, agricultural land and forests (including natural grassland and transitional woodland-shrubs) represent around 85\% of land cover in the EU-28, ranging from 52\% in Malta to 94\% in Poland.

\(^1\) CLC 2006 for ES61; ES63 and ES64.

### Table 1 - Land cover

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Map 1 - Land cover, 2012

Context indicator
C.31 Land cover

Land cover classes
- Artificial
- Agricultural
- Forest
- Nature
- Inland Water
- No Data

Source:
European CORINE Land Cover 2012
for NUTS regions E061; E063; E064;
EEA CORINE Land Cover 2006
Year:
2015
Calculations:
DG AGRI - E3
Cartography:
DG AGRI GIS-Team 12/2015
© Landscapes for the administrative boundaries

European Territorial and
Regional Information System
Table 2 – Land Cover change 2000 – 2006 - 2012

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Context indicator 31 - Land cover

Comments on methodology and data
Last update done in 2015; no more recent data available.